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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea
 SUBJECT Armed and Village Self-Defense Units in Ongjin
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SOURCE: [REDACTED]
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1. [REDACTED] the armed self-defense units in Ponyōng (N 37-55, E 125-17) (YB-0199) and Kugok-tong (N 37-57, E 125-19) (YC-0202), in Ongjin-gun were composed of loyal men Communists between the ages of 18 and 45. The gun police station and substations were in charge of the units, and the chief of the former issued identification cards to the unit members which authorized them to carry weapons. Members were armed with United States M-1 rifles and "Model-79" rifles which looked like the Model-99.¹ The armed units checked travelers in the area between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., and sought reactionary elements of the population. The units manned checkpoints in civilian houses, which had signboards giving the name of the ri followed by "Self-Defense Headquarters."
2. The Ponyōng Armed Self-Defense Unit was composed of 18 members, and its chief was KIM Ch'il-kyu, aged 40. The unit's components were at the following places: Muil-li (YB-029963), Ponyōng (YB-014984), and Ki-dong (XC-989025). The Kugok-tong unit had 14 members, and was at Komun-dong (YB-018999). Its chief was KIM Sang-hyon, aged 40.
3. The village self-defense units in Ponyōng and Kugok-tong were controlled by the armed self-defense units. All men and women between the ages of 18 and 50, with the exception of women with children under three years of age and cripples unable to walk, were compelled to serve in the village units. The Ponyōng unit had approximately 700 members; its chief was KIM Ch'il-kyu², aged 40. The Kugok-tong Self-Defense Unit had about 600 members; its chief was KIM Ha-sik, aged 35. Members were not issued identification cards and were not armed. Underground huts built at road junctions or other important points at approximately two kilometer intervals were used as checkpoints, between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., to question travelers in the area. Each checkpoint was manned by four members of the village unit. On occasion a member of the armed self-defense unit was attached to the checkpoint. If a traveler appeared suspicious, he was sometimes asked, as a test, to demonstrate calisthenics commonly used in North Korea.

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1. [redacted] Comment. Presumably the Japanese 7.7-mm. rifle, type 99.
2. [redacted] Comment. It is not clear whether this KIM Ch'il-kyu is identical with the KIM Ch'il-kyu mentioned in para. 2 as the chief of the Ponyong Armed Self-Defense Unit.

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